PARISH PROFILE

of

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

(ST. THOMAS CHURCH)

52nd and Parrish Streets

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19139

COMMITTEE FOR THE SELECTION OF A RECTOR

Emory J. Thomas, Jr., Chairperson

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Mrs. Hazel Ashhurst
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Raymond Shirley
Mrs. Icema Sinclair
Harold Trulear
Donald A. Young

May 20, 1976

HISTORY

Near the close of the 18th Century there existed a zeal for freedom from oppression. Philadelphia, the commercial center at that time, had a very large Negro population.

At this time Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, both who began life as slaves, but later bought their freedom, along with many other Philadelphia Negroes, were accustomed to worship at Christ, St. Peter's Episcopal Church and St. George's Methodist Church. As their numbers increased, efforts were made to segregate them, first around the sides of the church and then in the gallery. One Sunday, at St. George's Church, several Negroes were interrupted by ushers while on their knees in prayer and were ordered to move to the rear of the gallery. After brief discussion they left the church in a body and never returned.

Shortly thereafter, on April 2, 1787, Jones and Allen formed the Free African Society, an organization for mutual aid. Members contributed one shilling per month to be used to aid the sick, bury the dead, and help support widows and orphans. They also conducted religious services. Initially, they met in private homes, then in the Friends' African Schoolhouse. Similar societies were soon formed in other northern cities, and correspondence between them developed.

On September 18, 1790, the Society proposed for consideration of its members the holding of a religious meeting.

Out of the Free African Society grew two churches. One was the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, formed under the leadership of Absalom Jones, with the help of Dr. Benjamin Rush.

Richard Allen formed the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Both were officially organized in 1794.

Whereas Richard Allen was one of the leaders in the Free African Society, history records that shortly after its organization he severed his connection with the group due to disagreement over the form of religious service adopted.

On July 17, 1794, the African Church of St. Thomas was formally opened in its new building at Fifth and Adelphi Streets, "thus marking this event as the first regularly organized religious body among the colored people of the United States."

The African Church of St. Thomas affiliated with the main body of American Episcopalianism, but it was not given equal status with white churches until the time of the Civil War. Churches came to be the focus not only of spiritual life among Negroes but also for recreation, social reform and politics.

The Fathers of St. Thomas stipulated conditions in their petition to the Episcopal Church. They were as follow that:

> "They should be received as an organized body.
> They should be guaranteed forever control of their own local affairs.
> That one of their number should be licensed as a Reader and, if found fit, regularly ordained as their pastor."

On August 6, 1795, Absalom Jones was ordained a deacon of the Episcopal Church by Bishop White. He was ordained as a priest in 1804 by the same Bishop and served the church for twenty-four year until his death on February 13, 1818.

St. Thomas Church was incorporated under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania in 1796 and has continued as the first and oldest incorporated body of Negroes in the United States.

HISTORICAL FACTS

1804--St. Thomas Church established a day school for the instruction of the youth.

1839--December 20th, St. Thomas Church was consecrated. The first pipe organ built in a "colored" church was dedicated in St. Thomas Church.

1864--St. Thomas Church admitted into union with the Diocesan Convention of Pennsylvania.

Westward Trend of St. Thomas Church

1887--The first church, located at Fifth and Adelphi Streets, was sold.

1888--A lot on Twelfth Street below Walnut Street was purchased and a new, beautiful church was erected. The cornerstone was laid on May 14, 1890. This property was sold in September, 1942.

1938--Merger of St. Thomas with the Church of the Beloved Disciple, formerly of St. John's P.E. Church, located at 57th Street near Vine Street.

1941--In May the present church site at 52nd and Parrish Streets was purchased. By 1946, the mortgage was "amortized."

1946--September 7th the present church building was consecrated for use as an Episcopal Church.

1951--December 20th fire destroyed the entire building.

1953--February 1st the church was rebuilt and the first service held in "what is now the church side of the building."

CHRONOLOGICAL SUCCESSION OF PRIESTS AT ST. THOMAS

At the death of Absalom Jones, there were no men of color properly prepared to take his place and the pulpit was filled with white clergymen until the arrival of William Douglass, who served the church from 1834 until his death in 1862. Other priests who served our historic parish were:

William James Alston	1863-1872
John Pallam Williams	1882-1891
Owen M. Waller	1893-1896
E.G. Knight	1897-1901
George A. McGuire	1902-1905
A.C.V. Cartier	1906-1912
Archdeacon Henry L. Phillips	1912-1914
William E. Hendricks	1914-1918
F.A. Garrett	1919-1926
James A. Deaver	1926-1931
Robert W. Bagnall	1933-1943
Jesse F. Anderson	May, 1944 until his death, June 11, 1975.

"FATHER ANDERSON LED THE PARISH IN THE SPIRIT AND TRADITION OF ITS FOUNDING."

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH'S LOCALE

LOCATION: Northeast corner of 52nd and Parrish Streets in West Philadelphia within the Philadelphia Ant-Poverty Action Committee's (PAAC) Area K, one of twelve such designated areas in the city.

BOUNDARIES: PAAC Area K boundaries are from 44th Street (east) to 63rd Street (west); Market Street (south) to City Line Avenue (north). St. Thomas Church is affected by this larger area as well as the immediate community surrounding the church - 48th Street to 54th Street from Haverford Avenue to Girard Avenue.

CHURCHES: Fifty two (52) churches located in the larger area are of the following denominations:

Baptist	14
United Methodist	1
AME	2
AME Zion	1
Lutheran	1
Apostolic	1
United Presbyterian	1
Independent Baptist	3
Roman Catholic	4
Church of God in Christ	2
Holiness	2
Fire Baptist Holiness	1
Independent Fundamental	1
Interdenominational	1

Jehovah Witness..... 3

Kodesh..... 1

New Thought..... 1

Pentecostal..... 8

Seventh Day Adventist..... 1

Protestant Episcopal..... 1 (St. Thomas)

ST. THOMAS' MEMBERSHIP: Within the past fifteen years there has been steady movement by St. Thomas' Parishioners from the immediate community to the northern boundary, Wynnefield, which is near City Line Avenue, and beyond to Germantown, West Oak Lane, Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill, Yeadon, Ardmore, Willingboro in New Jersey and other adjacent areas.

SCHOOLS: In the area are: 9 Public Elementary Schools. 4 Roman Catholic Elementary Schools, 3 Public Junior High Schools, 1 Public High School, 1 Roman Catholic Boys' High School, Get-Set and Alternative Schools in many church buildings, as well as over-flow classes of Public School Kindergartens. St. Thomas Church for several years rented space to Dunlap Public School Kindergarten.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: Haddington Leadership Organization (HLO)
Black Political Forum
Millcreek Community Council
52nd Street Business Men's Association
West Park Neighbors

Wynnefield Neighbors

Conestoga Betterment League

Urban League (several special projects)

Block Clubs

Parkside YMCA

52ND STREET: Once a fashionable shopping area intermingled with well-kept homes, it has steadily declined. Some sporadic efforts towards rehabilitation have been initiated by organizations and/or small businesses, but there are no plans for a city supported all-out effort in the City of Philadelphia's 1975-1980 Capital Program.

HOUSING AND POPULATION: The housing vacillates from well-kept single family homes to tenement-type multi-family dwellings to boarded up or abandoned houses. The population in the St. Thomas community is 98% Black with a few whites who are elderly, and some Spanish speaking people. Many of the Blacks are elderly and live alone. Also, there are a number of large families with small children.

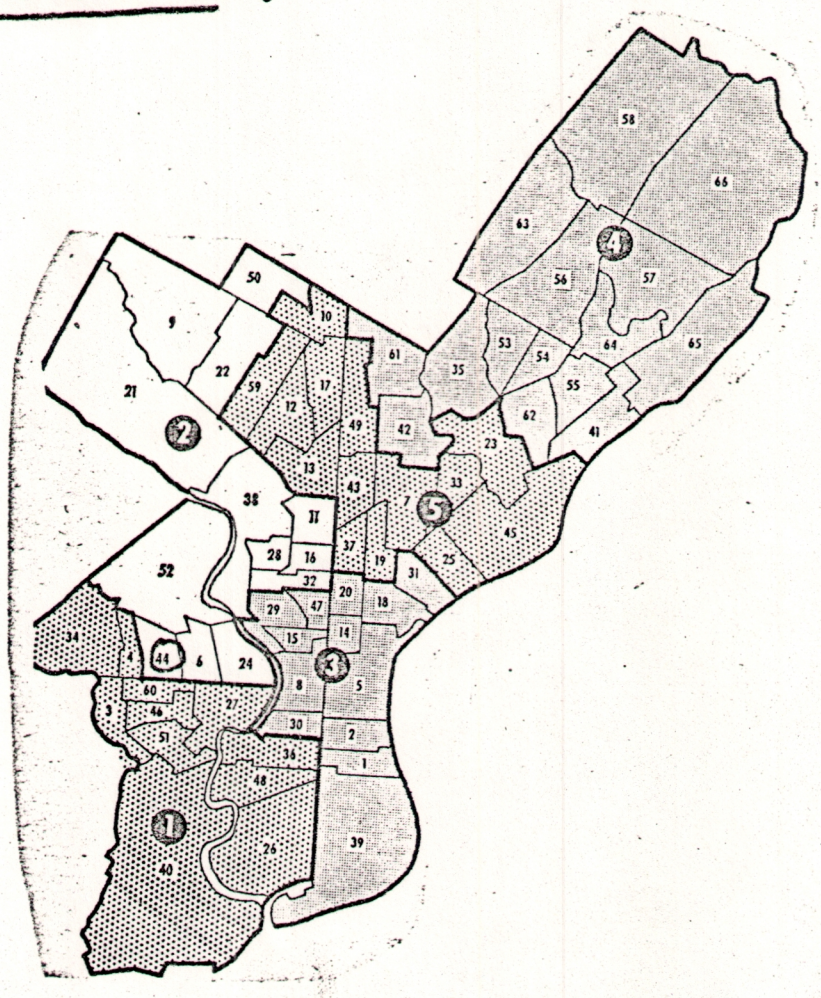
OPEN SPACE: Millcreek, which is really a small river, runs under this section of West Philadelphia. Several years ago the old brick tunnel, through which it ran, collapsed, causing several of the homes above it to cave in. In an attempt to avoid another catastrophe of this type, a decision was made to use the ground, where

those houses once stood, for neighborhood parks, small playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts.

PLANS TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE COMMUNITY ACCORDING TO THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA'S 1975-1980 CAPITAL PROGRAM (Philadelphia City Planning Commission):

West Millcreek and Haddington Areas are being funded under the Neighborhood Development Program (NDP), a Federally Funded Urban Renewal Program to combat abandonment and conserve neighborhoods, with woefully inadequate grants. Three playgrounds are to be constructed. Robin Hood Dell is relocating in West Fairmount Park. A Public Library is planned for Haverford Avenue.

MAP and Statistics:



Ward	—	Approximate Sq. Miles	—	Population (1970 census)
44 (2nd Cong. District where St. Thomas is located)	—	0.667	—	20,484
LARGER AREA				
34 (1st Cong. District	—	2,617	—	48,267
4 (1st Cong. District)	—	0.708	—	27,226
52 (2nd Cong. District)	—	4,330	—	33,548

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee has identified two sets of goals, short range and long range.

We conceive our short range goals as follows:

1. Encourage more members to take an active part in the programs of the parish.
2. Make a concerted effort to bring back to the church, persons in the age range of 20 to 39 years. Also, to devise methods to bring in new members in the same age range.
3. Develop a program for spiritual growth of all members, by strengthening our understanding of our faith in God, ourselves and our relationships with one another.
4. To foster an atmosphere of warmth and fellowship between and among members of the congregation.

Our long range goals are more encompassing and complex. They of necessity will embody the short range goals as well. The Committee considers the following to be our goals for the future:

1. Development of programs directed toward dealing with problems of our parish youth.
2. Development of more programs, with special emphasis on senior citizens.
3. A strengthening of programs that combine the activities of youth and adults which will lead to a more shared feeling of responsibility.
4. Social and community concerns:

a. Expansion of the present Food Cupboard Program.

b. The development of a Summer Day Camp.

c. A housing project for parishioners.

d. Cooperation with other churches in the immediate area leading to a concerted effort to work on community concerns and needs.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONGREGATION

An analysis of the role of the congregation will show that it is unmistakably interlocked with the role of the parish because it is only through the congregation's activities and interaction that the parish can function. We are fortunate in this regard, to have a congregation composed of persons from many areas of the educational and financial spectrum and therefore, are able to allocate a diversity of talent and finances to the accomplishment of the parish mission, and thus fulfillment of the role of the congregation.

The congregation's responsibility to the Rector is to provide the necessary monies, time and talent for the activities related to his religious ministry and social gospel, and also to provide the necessary vestments and sacraments.

The congregation's responsibility to the Vestry is to lend them support and cooperation in their task of supporting and assisting the Rector in fulfilling the functions and the mission of the parish.

Our responsibility as Lay persons are:

1. To live our lives in the light of Christian Principles.
2. To show our love to others as we have seen it in Christ.
3. By virtue of the fact that we are the strongest financial Black congregation in our Diocese, we must support the parish through responsible stewardship.
4. To provide the Rector with the necessary vestments

and sacraments.

5. To perpetuate the ideals and principles of our founders.
6. We must provide our time, talents and monies in support of the social gospel which involves the activities of the many guilds and organizations of the parish.

Future role and responsibility:

The future role of the laity should be two-fold as follows:

1. Church work - the work that is done toward maintaining the church as an institution.
2. Work of the church - which pertains to the social change that is needed in the church and the parish community.

The future responsibility of the laity should be toward increasing their stewardship to a point where not only will the parish be able to meet its expenses, but it will have substantial amounts that can be directed toward the work that the parish should be doing in the community at large.

PRIEST PROFILE

The consensus of the Selection Committee is that we call a Black priest to fill the vacancy for Rector in our parish. In the opinion of the Committee such an individual will more likely possess an innate understanding and receptiveness for the principles, purposes and attitudes as set forth by our founder and first Rector--Absalom Jones.

The Rector should have the usual theological training and educational background required of our clergy, along with previous parochial experience(or appropriate substitution)in urban ministry, and a desire to participate in a broad based continuing educational program. We view this background as essential in order for him to deal creatively with change and conflict both in human relations and on the larger societal level.

The Rector will be expected to present the Gospel effectively so that the parishioners are exposed to and will earnestly seek a spiritual renewal of evangelism to Christ. He should be capable of providing a sensitivity of understanding in the pastoral care of the parishioners, so that individual and family occasions of happiness, mental and emotional stress and crises are dealt with Christian concern.

In his parish work, the Rector should and must work in a cooperative spirit with the Vestry, rather than pursuing a course of rugged individualism. He should encourage the Vestry in their efforts of managing the physical and financial resources of the parish, and provide the appropriate impetus

for them to establish realistic priorities and programs that reflect the will and ideas of the members.

The Rector must have better than average speaking, writing and teaching skills in order to:

1. Establish confidence in the parishioners to seek and take an active part in the plans and programs of the parish so that its viability will be on-going and thereby assured.
2. Motivate laypersons in developing group participation and leadership to organize and fully implement programs so that their performance results in the fulfillment of established goals.
3. Work effectively with interested young adults (20 - 39 years of age) who presently are waiting to return to the church provided that it can meet their needs and desires.
4. Assist the parishioners in identifying real problems and achieving satisfactory results.
5. Challenge the parishioners to be cognizant not only of their own needs, but more importantly, the needs of others, so that the members will respond unselfishly with their time, talent and treasure within the parish and the community at large.
6. Develop Christian education programs through which persons of all ages will learn the proper content of the faith and its positive application in our daily living.
7. Participate in community, Deanery and Diocesan activities so that the mission of the parish is extended and its potential fully realized.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

The Vestry of St. Thomas consists of a Senior Warden, Accounting Warden, Clerk of the Vestry, and nine other members. St. Thomas has the unique distinction of having an Auxiliary Vestry. This is a group of fifteen men and fifteen women working with the Vestry, but without the basic authority of the Vestry.

The Vestry has two large fund raising projects. One, a tea with a different spectacular theme in the Spring, and the other an annual theatre trip to the Valley Forge Music Fair. The Vestry lends financial assistance to other guilds and organizations if needed, with full payment due at completion of project.

St. Thomas Church has many guilds and organizations that are self-supporting but always responsible to the Vestry. The guilds are responsible for providing and serving juice, coffee and buns during the coffee hour after the eleven o'clock service on Sundays. They also provide and serve dinner on Wednesdays during the Lenten Season. All guilds and organizations must submit to the Vestry a financial report of receipts and disbursements monthly in addition to a yearly statement. The following are the guilds and organizations of the parish:

1. Episcopal Churchwomen of St. Thomas

   The present day Episcopal Churchwomen was organized and recognized as the Women's Guild. This guild in 1893 became the Women's Auxiliary. In 1959 the Women's Auxiliary throughout the Diocese was organized as the Episcopal Churchwomen.

Besides being active in the parish the Churchwomen are also active in the Schuylkill Deanery and participate on committees in the Diocese and the Third Province. Each year members attend the Hood College Conference and the Annual Diocesan Convention.

Special activities promoted by the Women of St. Thomas are: the Spring and Fall United Thank Offering Ingatherings; a weekly Interdenominational Prayer Group; a monthly Discussion Group; visitations to the sick and shut-ins, and trips to places of interest. The group has helped refurbish a room for the Girls Friendly Society of the Diocese of Pennsylvania Holiday House, purchased picnic and playground equipment for the Radnor Conference Center (Denbigh), provided volunteer services for Elizabeth Price Martin League #1, cooperated in many ways with Church Women United, and maintain on a daily basis an Emergency Food Cupboard for Area "K" antipoverty project.

By virtue of their church membership, all women of the parish are automatically members of the Women of St. Thomas.

Among their many fund raising projects is the Annual Fish and Oyster Supper.

2. The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild of St. Thomas' Church serves with devotion and sacrifice as they clothe the priests and altars in seasonal appropriate and immaculate vestments and linens.

It is the responsibility of this guild to either purchase or make the necessary vestments used during the various Sunday services or special sacramental services. The Altar Guild is also responsible for the regular maintenance of the ceremonial articles appearing on the altars. They are also responsible for candle memorials and for the arrangement of flowers on the altar for all occasions.

Their annual fund raising project is the Absalom Jones Dinner held on the first Thursday in November.

3. The Acolyte Guild

The Guild is composed of approximately thirty boys and young men whose main function is to serve on the altar and assist the priest at all regular and special services. Fund raising events are held each year. The Guild members travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in a Youth Mass. They also visit and participate in services at many other churches.

They are involved in many other parish special services such as the "Liberation Service," Absalom Jones Memorial Service, and weekly Lenten Services.

The Guild trys to keep its programs as active and interesting as possible so the boys will not become disenchanted. The Guild keeps in contact with all its former members who participate in services when they are home from school or military duty.

4. The Acolyte Mothers Guild

The Guild was organized approximately thirty-five years ago. It functions in a most essential way in the life of St. Thomas Church.

The Guild's main task is to provide and maintain vestments for the corps of Acolytes who serve on the altar. Various projects, such as the annual theater trip to New York City, are planned and developed during each year to enable the realization of the guild's purpose. The Guild co-sponsors with the Acolytes the annual Father and Son Corporate Communion and Breakfast.

Proceeds from projects are also donated to funds created by the Vestry for special purposes.

5. The Guild of the Christ Child

The Guild of the Christ Child was organized in 1957. This active group endeavors to maintain

contact with parents and their infants from the day of Baptism until the children are four years old.

Guild members lend assistance at all Baptismal services by registering babies and godparents, and presenting to all godparents and families the Baptismal certificates and booklets which contain helpful suggestions. Throughout the year religious pictures and birthday cards are mailed to the children. This guild is financially supported by the Church School.

6. The Men's Fellowship

In 1939 the Men's Fellowship was founded to urge all men of St. Thomas' Church to join in the challenging work of uniting the church and the community, both spiritually and morally, through programs that lend financial aid to the parish, and which foster fellowship and brotherhood. The Guild hosts two corporate communions with breakfast for the men and boys of the parish and community.

The Men's Fellowship is proud of the church lounge it furnished, the financial contributions given to the Fellowship Commission, the NAACP, the Southwest and Parkside branches of the YMCA and the part it played in introducing to the congregation and the community men of stature.

The main fund raising event is the annual Fall Dinner Dance given at a local hotel. Last year this project enabled the men to donate $500.00 to the Jesse F. Anderson Memorial Fund. (Endowment Fund).

7. The Music Committee

The Music Committee of St. Thomas' Church was founded approximately thirty years ago. The committee had as its objective, then as now, to assist the choirmaster as needed so that our choir might at all times give the best in music at worship services. During the life of the Committee they have participated in all phases of work in the parish such as the purchasing of pianos and other items which are being used by the choirs for rehearsals. The Committee also purchased a tape recorder for the use of the choirmaster. Another of its main functions is to bring to the attention of the public new talent in the field of music through its scholarship fund for students interested in furthering their musical studies.

The Committee has also presented choirs in concert from various Black colleges.

8. The Matrons Guild

The Matrons Guild of St. Thomas' Church was founded in 1943. The purpose of this organization was to encourage the religious activities of the women in the life of the parish.

The versatility of its membership over the past thirty-four years has been exemplified in the diversity of its programs. The annual Card Party and Luncheon is one of its fund raising events. Such activities have aided in keeping St. Thomas one of the most outstanding parishes in the diocese. Accredited to the organization are annual donations to the Fellowship Commission, monthly contributions made for the care of the parish kitchen, purchase of vestments and music for the Girls' Choir and financial supplements requested by the Rector and Vestry for miscellaneous parish needs.

The Annual Summer Vacation Trip is another of the Guild's fund raising programs.

9. The Girls' Friendly Society

In 1943 a guild was organized for girls from sixteen to twenty years of age. The original name was St. Theresa's Guild. In 1947 St. Theresa's Guild became the Senior Members of the St. Thomas Branch of the Girls Friendly Society (G.F.S.).

The Society is an international organization for women and girls in the Episcopal Church. It is for all races, creeds, and colors. The program encompasses worship, handicraft, recreation and service for others.

The GFS is an affiliated organization of the Episcopal Churchwomen. Three annual events are corporate communion, the Service of Admission, and the beautiful GFS Candlelight Service.

Other outstanding events are the Annual Spring Fashion Show and the giving of gifts and favors to the residents of the Stephen Smith and Harrison Homes and other institutions in the city.

GFS Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey is a favorite vacation spot for the girls during Junior and Senior weeks.

10. Youth Choir Mothers (Formerly Girls Choir Mothers)

The Guild's main task is to provide and maintain vestments for the youth choir. Various projects are planned and developed during each year to enable the realization of the guild's purpose. Proceeds from projects are also donated when requested by the Vestry for special purposes. Mothers accompany the youth on singing and other trips. Skating and bowling parties are some of the Guild's fund raising projects.

11. Youth Council

The Guild which was formerly known as the St. Thomas Canteen was reorganized in 1973 to broaden its services to the community as well as to the parish. It was formed to unite the young people in the parish and community by having activities that they could commonly enjoy.

At the present time the goals are to make the parish activities as close to outside activities as possible without losing its sense of religious responsibility; and also to encourage youth to come to the church and perhaps while they are here they will learn the ideas of christian living being expressed to them in many ways.

The Youth Council has sponsored such activi-
as: bowling, the youth dinner, roller skating, parties and dances. Profits realized from these activities are used to further the work of the Council along with funds donated by the parish.

The Council usually is under the direction of the Curate with help from other adults who volunteer their services as sponsors of the various activities.

12. The Sisterhood Guild

This guild was organized in April 1972 for the purpose of participating in Christian activities, such as visiting and sending cards to confined persons. Last year the Guild assumed the responsibilities of the former Rectors' Guild, which dates back to 1936. Its main purpose was to raise funds for contributions toward the premium payments of the Rector's Pension Fund.

One of the fund raising activities is the sale of fruit cakes at Christmas.

Proceeds from their various projects are also donated when requested by the Vestry for special purposes.

13. The Doubting Thomases

In November 1974 the Guild was created by and for young adults, who felt that there was no real place for them and their particular needs in the church. Its goal is to recruit and help keep the young people's interest in the parish alive. The Guild publishes a newsletter and sponsors several fund raising projects each year.

Some of the past and present projects are the Annual Easter Flower Sale, Car Wash Days and the collection of clothing for the anti-poverty drive. Close contact is maintained with all members who are away at school and in military service through the newsletter it publishes.

14. The Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee was organized by Father Anderson in 1972 because of the pressing gang problems in the area, and the need for the parish to become involved with the community in working toward a solution to these problems. The initial activity began in conjunction with the Millcreek Center, through which a group of men of the parish transported a group of boys (gang members and/or potentials) to the Bowling

Alley and supervised that activity one evening per week. This form of Big Brother activity continued up to the summer of 1973 at which time it was mutually agreed to change the activity to swimming one night per week. In the fall of 1973 due to cuts in funding, the Center was closed in the evening, and as a result the Big Brothers activity has assumed the total responsibility of the boys. The Committee has continued a bowling league in the winter and swimming in the summer.

Another segment of the Social Action Committee is the Job Counseling Service. The Group has been hard at work establishing a job counseling and guidance program for the youth in the community, in an effort to properly guide them in the correct procedure to apply for a job and once secured, how to retain it. The Group has also made some inroads in establishing a job talent bank and has been instrumental in securing positions for some of the participants. Another area of involvement has been the establishment of rapport with some of the older, hard-core gang members. As a result there has been collaboration with them in setting up and supervising varied social functions in the parish.

A Sick and Shut-in sub-committee is the newest addition to the Social Action Committee.

15. The Choirs - Senior and Youth

In 1886 the Senior Choir was organized to enhance the worship of Almighty God. This choir soon won acclaim as one of the city's most outstanding musical groups.

Many capable musicians have continued the original high standards of performance. The Youth Choir has prepared and rendered a Jazz Mass for the Whitsunday services for the past three years, and has also performed it in Washington, D.C.

16. Scouting: Cub and Scout Troop #916

The St. Thomas Troop follows the guidelines of the National Scouting Movement which is to "provide men of tomorrow by building leadership from youth of today." This teaches them to be physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The St. Thomas Branch is one of the strongest, oldest and best organized troops in the City of Philadelphia. The Troop is called upon to serve in many capacities on the local council. They assist in establishing many new chapters in other churches. Our Troop and Pack numbers approximately forty five scouts. The Troop has taken trips to the Virgin Islands, the Grand Canyon, and at least six times a year has camped out in Virginia as well as participated in council events.

The main fund raising events are sale of dinners, newspapers, drawings, candy and sponsoring parties.

The Troop has a strong parents' group which stands ready to assist St. Thomas in any way it can.

CHURCH SCHOOL

HISTORY

Our Church School has been active for over forty years.

We have been self-supporting for the last twenty-four years.

The staff consists of a superintendent, three supervisors, a treasurer, and fifteen or more teachers depending on enrollment each year.

Our students range in age from two to seventeen years. The average attendance is eighty to one hundred students each Sunday.

The enrollment this year is one hundred and ninety students. In previous years the enrollment has been as high as five hundred and fifty students.

We use standard Episcopal Church curriculum with other resource material, such as films, records and our own reference library.

Our only money making project is an annual pre-Easter Candy Sale, which has proved very successful.

We have two Coke machines, one is rented, and one we own, that also bring in revenue.

Our students participate in community projects such as Unicef and the March of Dimes.

On Easter Sunday we have a special program in the church proper. No classes are held on this Sunday.

Classes are in session from the middle of September until the second Sunday in June. We close for the season with an afternoon program, followed by a

picnic at a nearby amusement park, before the end of June.

Students receive their own set of Church School envelopes at our yearly registration in September. This procedure was started approximately six years ago and has proven to be a successful venture.

At the end of the summer we send a financial statement and a card to all students, reminding them of registration.

Each of our three departments has their own worship service at the end of their class sessions. All departments attend church services once a month.

GOALS

To have more dedicated teachers.

To provide staff development for persons desiring to teach.

To increase our enrollment to at least three hundred children.

To provide the spiritual background to inspire our students to continue an active participation in the church after Church School days.

To increase parental interest in our work.

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
52nd & Parrish Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19139

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1st - DECEMBER 31st 1975

RECEIPTS

Parish Support

Plate Collection	$ 1,108.44	
Pledges	67,365.40	
Initial Offering	182.67	
Easter Offering	3,224.85	
Christmas Offering	3,211.85	
Use of Auditorium	687.25	
		$75,780.46

Special Parochial Purposes

Communion Alms	$ 818.05	
Guilds	235.63	
Women's Month	3,752.46	
Valley Forge	1,207.20	
Memorial Gifts	2,043.75	
Spring Tea	2,336.49	
Church School	1,995.56	
Emergency Fund	3,100.00	
Transfer Items	3,599.00	
Scholarship Fund	561.05	
Miscellaneous	2,148.19	
		$21,797.38

Outside Work

Diocesan Missions	-------	
Special Offering	807.42	
		807.42

	$98,385.26
Cash Balance Brought Forward	5,207.81
TOTAL RECEIPTS	$103,593.07

DISBURSEMENTS

Work Outside Parish

Missionary Quota	$ 7,500.00	
Special Offering	1,273.07	
		$ 8,773.07

Parish Administration Worship & Maintenance

Salaries & Allowances

Rector, Curate & Assistants	$28,829.00	
Secretarial Staff	5,544.69	
Fiscal Secretary	2,758.50	
Organist & Assistant	4,286.00	
Sexton	4,376.66	
F.I.C.A. Taxes	948.36	
F.I.C.A. & Wage Taxes Withheld	(117.73)	
		$46,625.48

Pension Premium	$ 3,981.25	
Communion Alms	482.90	
Telephone	559.91	
Fuel Oil, Light Power, Water	5,353.50	
Insurance Premiums	1,285.00	
Transportation & Conf. Exp.	59.37	
Office Equipment, Supplies, Postage & Printing	2,165.71	
Publicity & Contribution Envs.	651.49	
Assessment-Diocesan	106.80	
Church School Supplies & Expenses	1,905.78	
Janitorial & Maintenance Supplies	975.21	
Major Improvement & Repairs	3,198.00	
Transfer Item	4,799.00	
Altar Supplies	1,233.45	
Choir Music, Equip., & Repairs	459.90	
Hospitalization (Clergy)	1,401.33	
Miscellaneous	1,757.87	
		$30,376.47

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	85,775.02
CASH BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 1975	$17,818.05

CASH RECONCILMENT

Girard Corn Exchange Co.

General Funds	$17,421.83	
Church	396.22	
		$17,818.05
Penn R.R. Common (9 shares per Val)	$ 18.00	
Endowment Fund (Church Foundation)	7,838.58	
Endowment-Berean Savings & Loan	6,932.80	
Church School-Berean Savings & Loan	2,202.24	16,991.62
		$34,809.67

WILLIAM J. BURKE
Treasurer

CONSTANCE PERRY
Church School Treasurer